

veniences which would result from a uniformity of weight, fineness and value between the coins of this country and those of Great Britain. He concluded by moving the appointment of a committee to memorialize the government of the United States on the subject, and to report to the Society.

The motion was agreed to, and Prof. Frazer, Prof. J. H. Alexander, Prof. A. D. Bache, Mr. Robert Patterson and Mr. Trego, were appointed the committee.

The Committee of Publication reported the completion of Vol. X. of the *Transactions* of the Society, by the recent publication of Part 3 of that volume, of which a copy was laid on the table.

Mr. Trego, as reporter, presented No. 50 of the Society's *Proceedings*, just published, which completes the fifth volume.

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*Stated Meeting, February 17.*

Present, twelve members.

JUDGE KANE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From the Central Commission of Statistics of Belgium, dated Bruxelles, 20th July, 1850, and from the Etat Major of the Corps of Mining Engineers of Russia, dated St. Petersburg, 30th October, 1852,—both accompanying donations to the Society:—

From the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, dated Philadelphia, Feb. 7, 1854; and from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, dated Feb. 8, 1854, returning thanks for Vol. X. Part 3, of the *Transactions* of this Society:—

From the New Jersey Historical Society, dated Newark, Feb. 14, 1854, acknowledging the receipt of the Society's *Transactions*, Vol. X. Part 3, and of No. 50 of the *Proceedings*:—

From the Rev. Wm. Bacon Stevens, dated Philadelphia, Feb. 6, 1854,—from Frederick A. Genth, dated Philadelphia, Feb. 11, 1854,—and from Dr. Samuel D. Gross, dated Louis-

ville, Feb. 13, 1854,—severally acknowledging the receipt of notice of their election as members of the Society: and—

From the Hon. John P. Kennedy, dated Baltimore, Feb. 11, 1854, acknowledging the receipt of the diploma or certificate of his election as a member.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Annales de l'Observatoire Physique Central de Russie: publiées par ordre de S. M. l'Empéreur Nicolas I. sous les auspices de M. le Comte Wronctchenko, Ministre des Finances, &c.—par A. T. Kupffer, Directeur de l'Observatoire Physique Central. Année 1849. Nos. 1, 2, 3. St. Petersbourg, 1852. 4to.—*From the Etat Major of the Corps of Mining Engineers of Russia.*

Compte Rendu Annuel, adressé à S. Exc. M. de Brock, Secrétaire d'Etat, &c. par le Directeur de l'Observatoire Physique Central, A. T. Kupffer. Année, 1851. St. Petersbourg, 1852. 4to.—*From the same.*

Flora Batava, of Afbeelding en Beschrijving van Nederlandsche Gewassen. Aflevering 173, 174: en Tytel en Register Elfde Deel. Amsterdam. 4to.—*From H. M. the King of Holland.*

Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society, in Boston, April 27, 1853:—in Worcester, Oct. 24, 1853. Worcester. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Origin and Causes of Democracy in America:—A discourse by George W. Burnap;—delivered in Baltimore, before the Maryland Historical Society, on its Eighteenth Anniversary Celebration, Dec. 20, 1853. Baltimore. 8vo.—*From the Maryland Historical Society.*

The African Repository: Vol. XXX. No. 1. January, 1854. Washington. 8vo.—*From the American Colonization Society.*

Journal of the Franklin Institute. Third Series. Vol. XXVII. No. 2. February, 1854. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From the Institute.*

Quarterly Journal of the Chemical Society. Vol. VI. No. XXIV. January 1, 1854. London. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Statistique de la Belgique. Population. Mouvement de l'Etat Civil pendant les années 1846, 1847, 1848. Publié par le Ministre de l'Intérieur. Bruxelles, 1849. 3 vols. Fol.—*From the Central Commission of Statistics, Belgium.*

Statistique de la Belgique. Population. Recensement Général. (15

- Octobre, 1846.) Publié par le Ministre de l'Intérieur. Bruxelles, Feb. 1849.—*From the same.*
- Annual Report of the State Treasurer of Pennsylvania, on the Finances of the State, for the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1853. Harrisburg. 8vo.—*From M. W. Baldwin, Esq.*
- Annual Report of the Board of Canal Commissioners of Pennsylvania, with the accompanying documents, for the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1853. Harrisburg. 8vo.—*From George H. Hart, Esq.*
- Report of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, for the year 1853. By Thomas S. Kirkbride, M.D. Physician to the Institution. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From the Author.*
- The Medical News and Library. Vol. XII. No. 134. February, 1854. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From Blanchard & Lea.*
- The Plough, the Loom and the Anvil. Vol. VII. No. 2. February, 1854. New York. 8vo.—*From the Editors.*
- The True Idea of the University and its relation to a Complete System of Public Instruction:—An Address before the Association of the Alumni of the University of the City of New York, June 28, 1852: by C. S. Henry, D.D.—and
- The Indebtedness of the City of New York to its University:—An Address to the Alumni of the University of the City of New York, at their Twenty-first Anniversary, 28th June, 1853: by Prof. J. W. Draper, M.D. New York. 8vo.—*Donor unknown.*
- Mémoire sur les Volcans de l'Auvergne: par M. Rozet, Capitaine d'État Major. (Présenté à l'Académie des Sciences, le 3 Avril, 1843.) 4to.—*From Prof. J. F. Frazer.*
- Sai an Sinsin, sive Liber Metempsychosis veterum Ægyptiorum: e duabus papyris funebribus Hieraticis signis exaratis: nunc primum edidit Latine vertit notas adjecit Henricus Brugsch, Doct. Phil. &c. &c. Berolini, 1851. 4to.—*From the same.*
- Voyages from Holland to America, A. D. 1632 to 1644. By David Peterson De Vries. Translated from the Dutch, by Henry C. Murphy. New York, 1853. 8vo.—*From James Lenox, Esq.*

On motion of Mr. Fraley, Dr. Ruschenberger was requested to prepare an obituary notice of the late Dr. Robert M. Bird.

Judge Kane, pursuant to former appointments, presented and read obituary notices of Judge Hopkinson, Thomas Gilpin, and John Price Wetherill, late members of the Society.

*Joseph Hopkinson.* The family name of our late Vice-president is intimately associated with the political and forensic history of the United States. His grandfather, his father and himself, were in succession the judges of admiralty in Pennsylvania, each distinguished in his day. The father was a member of the Congress of 1776, signed the declaration of Independence, and contributed by his personal influence and by the sportive sarcasm of his pen to its successful vindication. The son also was led astray, for a while, from the walks of his profession by the seducements of political life, and held an important and honoured place in the House of Representatives of the United States, with Webster and Clay and Calhoun and Lowndes for his associates and competitors in debate.

His reputation was national, as were all his aims and wishes and thoughts; and his life truly written out would be a chapter rather than an episode in the history of his country.

He came early to the bar, with talents to achieve the highest honours of his profession, and with that other indispensable element of success, just poverty enough to make him willing to exert them. His course to eminence was rapid. His vindication of Dr. Rush from the calumnies of Cobbett, his reclamation of damages at the suit of Pat Lyon, and his defence of Judge Chase before the Court of Impeachment, are among the trophies of our Philadelphia bar. He entered Congress I think in 1816; but after serving for a term or two, retired from the gladiations of politics and law to a farm near Bordentown, New Jersey.

It is the dream of every lawyer this *country life*. There is something about the excitements of our daily professional contest, its alternations of disaster and success, each in its turn unlooked for, dependent on contingencies that may sometimes be calculated but are not often to be controlled, which, like the adventurous experience of the storm-trying mariner, makes a man long for the fancied repose of a farm. But the "*mox reficit rates*" applies in the two vocations alike; in a very few years Mr. Hopkinson came back to the bar. At the close of Mr. J. Q. Adams's administration, he was appointed the United States Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and he retained that office till his death. While holding it he took part in the convention that framed the constitution of this State, and was one of the wise minority which opposed many of its present features.

He had refined tastes, was fond of paintings and statuary, and presided for many years over the Academy of Fine Arts. He wrote poetry too, as gentlemen used to do fifty years ago, and perhaps as

they do now: the words of Hail Columbia are from him. A poor player had announced for his benefit night that the President would be welcomed at the theatre with a patriotic ode; and his poet disappointed him at the last moment. Hopkinson found a Hessian march in his *flute-book*, and made the verses to suit it before going to bed.

His style of writing was pure manly English, admitting very little ornament for ornament's sake, but graceful and flowing. As a speaker, he was terse and studiously simple, but rich with illustration when the occasion called for it, and racy with wit. He was seldom elaborate in preparing an argument; or if he was, he took pains to rub out the traces of elaboration, as an Indian covers his track among the leaves. His mind was acute, suggestive, intense sometimes, prompt in its conclusions, and little anxious to review them. Yet he was patient on the bench, and could hear or seem to hear all sorts and qualities of forensic contestation as meekly as eloquence or logic:—sometimes indeed, when the sophism was quite too audacious, I have known him to kill it off with a spark of wit; but he generally bore it like a philosopher. He had wonderful powers of conversation, was playful, full of anecdote, happy in repartee,—a good listener withal, not only witty himself, but the cause wherefore wit was in other men.

He became a member of the American Philosophical Society, in 1815, and was chosen to be a Vice-president in 1831. He died on the 15th of January, 1842, at the age of 71.

I should be glad to spread out some of my reminiscences of Judge Hopkinson, for I knew him well; he was my professional instructor almost forty years ago, and we were friends as long as he lived. But the brevity, which the spirit of our rules enjoins, allows me only to trace this hasty sketch of his character upon our records.

*Thomas Gilpin.* I hoped, when the Society did me the honour of requesting me to notice Mr. Gilpin's death upon our records, that I should have the aid of my friend, his nephew, in collecting the material for my work. The continued absence of Mr. H. D. Gilpin in Europe has prevented this, and I must be excused therefore for making a more brief memorial than the services and personal worth of our late fellow member might rightfully claim.

Mr. Gilpin was of ancient family among the old Quakers of Pennsylvania, and connected by descent with still older and equally honoured families in England. When I first knew him, a great many years ago, he was residing on the Brandywine, an extensive manufacturer of paper, busily engaged in devising improvements in his art. The machine paper made on a wire wove cylinder, though not I be-

lieve, his invention, was first introduced to notice in this country under his auspices. His works were at that time among the curiosities of that busy and beautiful region, and the grounds about them more picturesque and tastefully ordered than any I have seen since. He afterwards removed to Philadelphia, and continued here till he died.

He was an ingenious, public spirited, and useful man, fond of science, well read in it, and sometimes a contributor of his observations and thoughts for the different scientific journals. I have before me "An essay on Organic Remains as connected with an ancient Tropical Region of the Earth," which he addressed to this Society in 1843; and which was published soon after. Besides this, I remember a plan of his for bringing about a representation of the minorities in our political systems, which he explained and enforced in a pamphlet soon after. It was the first matured scheme of the sort, that gained public attention among us; but it involved objections of detail, which prevented its finding general favour. The principle it sought to illustrate has however been recognised in some of the later enactments of our legislature. In 1848, he made a collection of all the documents, that were connected with the imprisonment of his father and others of the same sect by the revolutionary authorities of 1776. It is interesting, as showing the perilous energy with which those almost self constituted tribunals, executed their patriotic functions against all who were suspected of favouring the crown, and as showing also the calm and placid, but galling pertinacity, with which men disciplined in the school of conscience can oppose without resisting, and suffer without submitting. The protests and representations and petitions and appeals of the prisoners make up a volume.

A more extended inquiry than I am able to make would probably bring to view others of his writings. His mind was active, and his range of thought embraced many subjects. He was a member of our Society from the year 1814 till 3d March, 1853, when he died at the age of 77.

*John Price Wetherill.* During the war of the Revolution, a number of the Society of Friends, the parent society of Pennsylvania, were so far led away by patriotic fervour as to bear arms in the cause of the colonies. They lost their heritage, of course; but retaining most of the conscientious peculiarities of the sect, they formed a new community, which, as time and change narrowed its boundaries, became more and more sedulous to keep their outline well defined. Among the last of these, of the second or third generation of "free Quakers," was our friend the late curator, the grandson of a revolutionary

minister and soldier, tracing back an honoured ancestry from before the settlement of Penn. He was a Quaker to the very last, without a particle of schismatic bitterness, but pertinacious in his adherence to his patrimonial faith and forms.

He occupied a very large space in this community of ours, and held many positions of trust. He was a contented man, who had persuaded Price Wetherill to be the executor of his will, or the guardian of his children. He had the confidence of all classes. When a bank had just been proclaimed insolvent, and in spite of the police, an excited crowd of small creditors was threatening violence at the counter, a promise from him that "he would see into the matter" made every thing quiet. He was fairly borne down by public offices. He was an indefatigable Guardian of the Poor, a Manager of the Girard estates, chairman of the Watering Committee of Philadelphia for a great many years, and latterly the President of our Select Council.

He was a scientific manufacturing chemist; a theorising, but also a practical agriculturist; a thorough and successful business man; yet a zealous politician, public spirited beyond any one of his place and time, liberal to profusion for the relief of want, the encouragement of toil, the advancement of science; his whole life devoted to all he believed to be good; and his death that of a humble, almost timorous, but hopeful Christian.

He had some eccentricities; but they were none of them repulsive; he was careless of his personal appearance, and took pride in leading with his own hands the operations of his laboratory and his farm. Still, he liked the society of the eminent and refined, and had many warm friends among the political leaders of the country. He was a vice-president in the Academy of Natural Sciences, and a member of the Wistar Club.

His hospitality was without stint, and embraced almost all classes in its range. His charities were still more diffusive; those, who have ministered to the poor and suffering during the inclemencies of this winter, have found out how large and pervading were his benefactions, and how carefully screened from the public eye. I myself know more than one thriving and happy household, that can refer back its comforts and its hope to his well devised and equally well masked bounty.

This is about all that need be said of our friend. He performed his part in life well; and it was a laborious and responsible one; and he carried with him to the grave the regrets of many poor, and the esteem of all the worthy.

Elected a member American Philosophical Society, 20th April, 1827. Elected a curator American Philosophical Society, January, 1828. Died at Philadelphia, 24th July, 1853, aged 59 years.

The minutes of the Board of Officers and Council at their last meeting were read by the clerk.

The committee appointed at last meeting, on the subject of equalizing the coinage of this country and of Great Britain, reported a memorial to the Congress of the United States on that subject,—which, after consideration and debate, was re-committed to the committee, to report at a future meeting of the Society.

Dr. Boardman, on behalf of James Lenox, Esq., of New York, presented for the Library of the Society a translation of the “Voyages of De Vries from Holland to America, A. D. 1632 to 1644,” and made some remarks upon the rarity of the original work and the value of the donation:—

Whereupon—on motion of Prof. Frazer, the Secretary was directed to communicate the thanks of the Society to Mr. Lenox for his valuable gift.

On motion of Judge Kane, (Dr. Dunglison having taken the chair), the Address delivered to the Society by its President, on the 16th of December last, was referred to the Board of Officers and Council.

The subject of re-engraving the seal of the Society, which has become much worn by long use, was also referred to the Officers and Council.

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*Stated Meeting, March 3.*

Present, ten members.

The President and Vice-Presidents being absent, Mr. Justice was called to the Chair.

Mr. George Harding, a recently elected member, was introduced and took his seat.

Letters were read:—

From the Trustees of the New York State Library, dated